

# **Indiana Department of Transportation**

## **2020 Emergency Response Report**

Reduced or Suspended Operations	Page 2
Future Emergency Preparations and Recovery	Page 3
Recommendations for emergency preparedness	Page 3
Recommendations for permanent modifications	Page 3
Summary of Accelerated Construction Projects	Page 4

### ***Summary***

INDOT's proceeded with summer construction operations as normal, and accelerated construction projects in each district due to lower traffic volumes. This emergency expedited the remote work pilot program and other electronic business practice initiatives, such as e-ticketing for materials deliveries.

From a revenue perspective, the agency is still evaluating the long-term financial impacts. No major decisions have been made, except for postponing the Community Crossings Matching Grant program.

**Overview of which, if any, operations or services were reduced or suspended during the COVID-19 pandemic, including the following information:**

- A. Whether the suspension or reduction was required by an Executive Order or an internal agency decision?**
- B. To the extent applicable, include citations for the laws, rules and policies affected by or authorizing the reduction or suspension.**

What service or operation was suspended?	What statute, rule or policy was suspended?	What does the provision state?	Executive Order or Internal Policy?	Date Range (If Applicable)
Suspended the 30-day requirement for the issuance of certificates of qualification.	IC 8-23-10-2	Requires INDOT to act on Prequalification applications within 30 days of receipt.	20-05, Paragraph 13A	3/18/20-6/30/20
Extended existing certificates of qualification from 4/30 to 6/30 without requiring new applications on a limited basis where need is demonstrated.	IC 8-23-10-0.5/-1	Requires application for prequalification to be filed by firms to obtain new certificate of qualification each year.	20-05, Paragraph 13A	N/A
Suspended hearings before the Prequalification Committee until face-to-face meetings are deemed safe to re-commence.	105 IAC 11-2-5/6/8	Requires the Prequalification Committee to make recommendations regarding changes in certificates of qualification.	20-05, Paragraph 13A; 20-04, Paragraph 5	3/18/20-6/30/20
Suspended public readings of our letting results.	IC 8-23-9-1 105 IAC 11-3-13	Requires INDOT to have a public opening/ public reading of our bid results.	20-05, Paragraph 13A	3/18/20- Current
Suspended in-person certification onsite visits for new DBE applicants; however, performed virtual on sites.	49 CFR 26.83	Requires INDOT to review and make a final decision on new DBE Certification applications within 90 days, this includes an on-site visit.	USDOT guidance	3/31/20- Current
Created a permit for transporting emergency preparedness and relief supplies and services.	IC 9-20	Restricts oversized/overweight requirements on highways without a valid permit.	20-03	3/16/20- Current
Suspended new filings of condemnation proceedings.			20-06, Paragraph 1	3/19/20- Current
Accelerated construction due to lower traffic in all 6 districts. Project summary attached.			Internal Policy	
Paused in-person facility audits for plants, quarries, etc.			Internal Policy	3/24/20 to 7/1/20
Reduced materials testing to critical samples.			Internal Policy	3/24/20 to 7/1/20
Transitioned to e-ticketing for materials deliveries.			Internal Policy	
Suspended permanent statewide field traffic counting.			FHWA guidance	3/2020-4/2020
Suspended site inspections of at-grade railroad-highway crossings.			FRA guidance	3/18/20-4/20/20
Suspended project research and document digitization process.			Internal Policy	3/24/20-4/10/20
Suspended new vehicle paperwork and license plating process.			Internal Policy	3/24/20-5/22/20
Implemented a temporary permit for food trucks to operate at rest stops.			FHWA guidance	4/13/20- 6/14/20
Conducted a virtual public meeting for the selection of the North Split operator.	8-15.5-4-9(a)	Requires a public hearing for the selection of an operator in the county seat where the project is located.	20-04, Paragraph 5	
Paused the second call for the Community Crossings Matching Grant program.			Internal Policy	

***Overview on preparations to address future emergencies and recovery from the emergencies based on the state agency's experience with the COVID-19 pandemic. To the extent applicable, include citations for the laws, rules and policies that are affected by or authorize preparations.***

- 1) The agency is reducing costs condensing office space in Government Center North from three floors to two. This will allow another agency to utilize space and cut costs across the State budget. Employees are shifting to permanent remote work where practical and efficient.
- 2) INDOT is coordinating with the Bureau of Motor Vehicles and the Indiana Department of Administration to improve the new vehicle plating process to eliminate paper delays.
- 3) INDOT is coordinating with the Federal Highway Administration and industry partners to implement a permanent e-ticketing system for material deliveries.
- 4) INDOT is continuing to develop action plans for all modes of transportation in light of modal shift during emergencies. For example, public transit ridership dipped by 80% in April and a share of those trips transferred to other modes of transportation, notably highway.
  - a. This includes reviewing the Strategic Rail Corridor Network (STRACNET) with the US DOT and the Federal Railroad Administration. The designated rail lines and connectors are the civil rail lines most important to national defense.

***Recommendations, if any, for legislation that may be needed to help ensure the agency is prepared to address future emergencies.***

None.

***Recommendations, if any, for legislation to permanently repeal or modify any regulations or laws that were or are partially or fully suspended due to the COVID-19 pandemic.***

The legislature should consider allowing electronic publication as an acceptable form of publicly opening bids under IC 8-23-9-1.

### Summary of Accelerated Projects due to COVID-19

INDOT's construction program has continued to move forward during the COVID-19 emergency. On site, there are increased safety protocols to practice social distancing as well as virtual meetings. For construction testing and deliveries, INDOT has shifted many transactions to electronic methods.

INDOT took advantage of the reduced traffic counts to accelerate construction projects. Notably in the Indianapolis area on I-70 from downtown to I-465 on the east side has been accelerated with full and directional closures. INDOT anticipates saving taxpayers millions of dollars and shortening the overall construction timeline by 3 months. The entire project was completed two days ahead of the accelerated scheduled on Friday, May 22nd.

With new race days and the re-organization of the construction schedule, I-70 from downtown to Ronald Reagan Parkway was closed from late May to late June. The westbound piece closed on June 26th and re-opened ahead of schedule in late July. I-65 on the near south side at Keystone Avenue was also accelerated and the project is now ahead of schedule.

INDOT's Northeast district accelerated three jobs into construction on I-69 and I-469.

INDOT's Northwest district completed additional patching on I-65 near Merrillville and accelerated bridge work on I-80/94 and Central Ave./Clay St.

INDOT's West Central district took advantage of lower traffic volumes along I-70 for additional patching work in various locations. On I-65, the district built crossovers and strengthened shoulders to prepare for additional bridge work.

INDOT's Southeast district used the extended hours for the resurface project on I-265 between I-65 & I-64 and accelerated bridge paintings on I-265.